

Prairielands eLine

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District
www.prairielandsgcd.org



School Programs Spring Forward in 2016

The Prairielands education trailer and staff members, Shawn Davis, David Miller and Karen Siddall, headed to all parts of the district this spring to visit with students in a number of different school districts.

April kicked off with Water Day programs in Hill County at both Mount Calm ISD on April 6 and Hillsboro Intermediate School the following morning. In conjunction with Texas AgriLife – Hill County and the Hill County Master Gardeners, Prairielands staff led tours of the Education Trailer with presentations on aquifers, wells, water conservation, and preventing pollu-

tion of our precious water resources.

Fourth and fifth graders in Penelope ISD toured the trailer on April 14.

Earth Day (April 22) found the staff and the trailer at Venus Elementary School in Johnson County. Students in the 2nd through 5th grades toured the trailer learned about the exhibits as a part of the school's day-long Earth Day celebration.

Back in Hill County, the Education Trailer set up shop outside Whitney Middle School on April 26 for 8th grade students serving in the PALS program, a special class that mentors

younger elementary school students.

Spring programs wound down on May 23 with a visit to Biology and Environmental Science classes at Alvarado High School in Johnson County.

In addition to trailer visits, staff spoke about water conservation to 4th grade students at Glen Rose Intermediate School in Somervell County.

The education trailer is available for school presentations as well as civic events, club meetings, and public festivals. To schedule an event, contact PGCD at (817) 556-2299.

Spring 2016

Volume 2, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- Public education trailer ready for school and public events.
 - Upcoming board meetings set.
 - Water conservation awards in district
 - Plants fairs & sales held.
 - Public comments on proposed desired future conditions sought.
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Weaver's Nursery & Johnson County Master Gardeners Host Plant Events

On April 2, local business, Weaver's Nursery, hosted their annual Customer Appreciation Day with a festive native plant sale and fair. The Prairielands GCD participated by manning a booth alongside the City of Cleburne Water Department and Keep Cleburne Beautiful. Staff assisted shoppers with their plant selections, answered questions about converting their home landscapes over to more heat and drought-tolerant plant materials, and handed out a variety of informational brochures.

Customers were treated to special pricing on native plants and others

that are adapted to thrive in our local climate and conditions. Short informational presentations were held throughout the six hour event with free hot dogs and beverages served during the lunch hour.

The Johnson County Master Gardeners invited Prairielands GCD to participate by setting an information booth during their annual plant sale on April 9th at the Johnson County Sheriff's Posse Arena White Building. Over 200 customers visited our table in the first hour of the event!

We talked about low-water-use plants and landscaping methods to conserve water

and handed out informational brochures on rainwater harvesting, mulching, and Texas SmartScape plant database on CD-Rom.



Karen Siddall, public relations & education administrator, manned a booth at the annual Weaver's Customer Appreciation Day.

Did You Know ...?

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors holds regular monthly board meetings which are open to the public.

Meetings are normally scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Liberty Hotel, 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX. (Board meetings that fall on a holiday are scheduled for an alternate date.)

The Board's Work Session typically

begins at 8:30 a.m. with the actual Board Meeting following immediately after.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

June 20—Liberty Hotel
July 18—Liberty Hotel
August 15—Liberty Hotel
September 19—Liberty Hotel

Both Board Meetings and Work Sessions are open to the public, however, certain restricted topics may be required to be discussed privately by directors during a closed-to-the-public Executive Session.

Meeting notices and agendas are publicly posted prior to the date of the meeting at the PGCD office and on the district's website at www.prairielandsgcd.org.

Prairielands' Siddall Receives Regional Public Education Award

Karen Siddall, the Prairielands GCD public relations and education administrator, was awarded the 2016 Public Education Award by the Texas Water Utilities Association North Central Texas Regional School for her educational outreach efforts on behalf of the district and the association.

She received the engraved acrylic award on May 17 in a lunchtime ceremony on the grounds of the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington where the school is held before a crowd of her peers.

The award announcement stated the award was for exemplary Public Education including coordinating water conservation outreach events between the relatively new groundwater district and cities within its jurisdiction.

Facebook posts on the district's timeline that provided an ongoing commentary on the wide variety of activities promoted, coordinated, and attended, and the development and launching of the district's groundbreaking Education Trailer detailed the district program's success.



Karen Siddall is congratulated by North Central Regional School Board Member/Treasurer, Joe Smolinski (from the City of Mansfield).

Spring 2016 Texas SmartScape™ Plant Sales & Fairs Held



The Prairielands Education Trailer appeared at both the Burleson and Cleburne Home Depot stores this spring.

This spring, the Prairielands GCD, the cities of Burleson and Cleburne, and area Home Depots partnered together

to promote Texas SmartScape™ and offer residential landscape do-it-yourselfers great savings on low-water-use plants that thrive in our climate and soils.

Burleson held the first event on May 7, and the Prairielands Education Trailer was on hand for tours and water conservation presentations throughout the four-hour event.

The Cleburne Home Depot hosted their event on May 21 having been rescheduled after the original March 19 date was called due to anticipated

poor weather. The Education trailer and district staff were there to promote water conservation practices and talk about groundwater, water wells, and our aquifers.

Shoppers had the opportunity to talk with district, city, and Home Depot staff to get ideas and tips for landscaping in North Central Texas. There were free hot dogs, drinks, and activities for kids with each Home Depot holding a Kids' Clinic.

For information on Texas SmartScape™ plants and future events, go online to www.txsmartscape.com.

Prairielands Delivers State Awards to District Students

Each year the Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA) hosts a statewide poster and essay contest based on some aspect of water conservation or water awareness for students in grades 4–6.

The theme of this year's contest was "The Texas Water Cycle: From Parched to Plenty" with approximately 400 students from across the state submitting entries: both posters and essays. This year our district was delighted to



. Because of our recent extremes in conditions in our state, drought to flooding, the theme this year's was "The Texas Water Cycle: From Parched to Plenty."

discover that the 1st place Poster contest winner and the 2nd place Essay contest winner were students from school districts in one of the four Prairielands GCD counties.

The 1st Place Poster Contest winner was

Mariana Lares, a fifth-grade student at Venus Elementary School (Johnson County.) Her beautiful depiction of a bluebonnet blooming in both drought and wet times was the unanimous pick of the TWUA contest judges. Mariana received her blue ribbon and cash prize – a check for \$200 – from Prairielands GCD Public Relations and Education Administrator Karen Siddall. This was the second of Mr. Brister's students to win the state poster contest.

The 2nd Place Essay Contest winner was fourth-grader, Hannah Balkenbush, a student at Glen Rose Intermediate



Hannah Balkenbush, the 2nd Place Essay contest winner, is a fourth grader at Glen Rose Intermediate School



(L to R) 1st place Poster contest winner's mother, sister, Mariana Lares with her winning entry, Mr. Brister—Venus Elementary, Karen Siddall, Prairielands GCD, and David Bailey, Waxahachie Water Utilities.

School (Somervell County.) Karen Siddall presented her with a red ribbon and cash prize – a check for \$100 – after Hannah read her essay to the entire 4th grade at an assembly at her school.

Prairielands GCD staff are members of TWUA and serve on the Public Education Committee that promotes and judges the water conservation-themed contests and entries.

Prairielands GCD

Mailing Address:
PO Box 3128
Cleburne, TX 76033
Phone: 817-556-2299

Office Location:
205 S. Caddo Street
Cleburne, TX 76031
(Inside the Liberty Hotel)



**Prairielands Groundwater
Conservation District**

Conserving, protecting, and enhancing
groundwater resources in Ellis, Hill,
Johnson, and Somervell counties

We're on the web at
prairielandsgcd.org.



In 2008 & 2009, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality designated large areas over the Trinity Aquifer from the Red River to Central Texas as Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMA) due to critical groundwater declines facing the area.

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature with a directive to conserve, protect and enhance the groundwater resources of Ellis, Johnson, Hill and Somervell Counties in Texas.

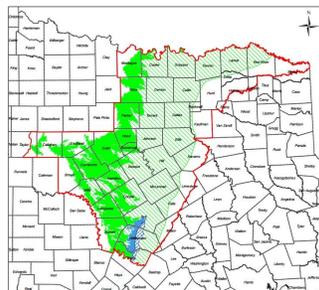
Public Hearing Held To Discuss Desired Future Conditions

On May 16, the PGCD Board of Directors held a public hearing on the proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the Trinity and Woodbine aquifers. The purpose of the hearing was to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide comments to the District related to the proposed DFCs.

What are Desired Future Conditions?

According to the Texas Water Development Board, DFCs are the desired, quantified conditions of groundwater resources, such as water levels, water quality, spring flows or volumes, at a specified time or times in the future or in perpetuity as defined by the participating

groundwater conservation districts within a groundwater management area as part of a joint planning process. The chosen conditions serve as management goals and define how an aquifer will look in the future.



Aquifers of the Prairielands GCD

- Trinity (outcrop)
- Trinity (subcrop)

For the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District, the relevant

proposed DFCs describe the average drawdown of the various aquifers within the Trinity Aquifer Group from 2010 levels through 2070.

A copy of the proposed DFCs may be requested by email at jimconkwright@prairielandsgcd.org, is available for reviewing and downloading at www.prairielandsgcd.org, and may be reviewed or obtained in person at the District office located at 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX.

Those wishing to provide written comments on the proposed DFCs may do so up until 5 pm on July 12, 2016, by regular mail addressed to Jim Conkwright, Prairielands GCD General Manager, P.O. Box 3128, Cleburne, TX 76033, or by fax at (817) 556-2305.